

**Washington, D.C.** - Congressman Rob Wittman yesterday voted in favor of H.R. 2965, the Enhancing Small Business Research and Innovation Act of 2009. The legislation, which reauthorizes the Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR) until October of 2011, passed by a vote of 411 to 15.

“Small businesses create roughly 70% of new jobs in this country each year. They will play a major role in our economic recovery and it is critical that Congress continues to incentivize their development,” said Wittman.

The SBIR program provides grants to aid small business growth through three phases of project development, implementation, and commercialization. The STTR program requires certain federal agencies to set-aside a percentage of their extramural research and development budget for the purpose of developing projects produced by small businesses. Additionally, this bill expands the amount of agency set-asides for SBIR and STTR programs and increases the maximum amount for individual awards to small businesses.

*Congressman Rob Wittman represents the First District of Virginia. He was elected to his first full term in November 2008 and serves on the Natural Resources Committee and the Armed Services Committee, where he is the Ranking Member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.*